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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/525,142	03/14/2000	Pablo Tamayo	2825.1014-001	8330

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EXAMINER

ZHOU, SHUBO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2003

AS

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/525,142	TAMAYO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shubo "Joe" Zhou	1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). <u>23 1/2</u>
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's amendment and request for reconsideration in Paper #22, filed on 9/23/02, is acknowledged and the amendments entered.

Applicant's arguments in response to the previous Office Action, mailed 5/22/02, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated from the previous Office actions, or newly applied, and constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application. Rejections and/or objections from previous Office actions not reiterated herein are hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 1 and 11 are amended in Paper #22 to contain the following new limitation: using a self organizing map... "in a manner free of predetermined association of patterns with respective clusters". Applicants assert that the basis for the amendment is from the specification on page 8, lines 1-13 and page 23, lines 4-11. However, the Examiner fails to find the new

limitation in the referenced pages, or anywhere in the specification. The new limitation is deemed new matter.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mack, David H. (US patent no. 6,303,301, date of patent: 10/16/01, filed 5/29/1998), in view of Mangiameli et al. (European J. Operational Research, September 1996, Vol. 93, pages 402-417, see Abstract. This reference was provided to applicants in the previous Office actions) and Kohonen (IDS document: Self-Organizing Maps, Publisher: Springer, 1997).

This rejection is reiterated from the previous Office action and for reasons of record.

Applicants' argument as detailed on pages 5-7 of Paper #22 is essentially on the ground that the Mack reference is different from the instantly claimed invention in that the former, not the latter, requires prior knowledge of known, predetermined category of genes. This is not deemed persuasive. Indeed, one embodiment of Mack's invention is a method to determine what genes are regulated by a gene, say, p53. See column 29. The method comprises taking samples from such cells containing p53 mutation and normal cells in parallel, analyzing the expression level of plurality of genes, 65,000 in the case of p53, clustering and categorizing genes based on their expression level, and building causal model. See Fig.2. It is clear that the clustering and categorizing step has nothing to do with the prior knowledge of samples being p53 mutation or not. Only after cluster analysis is done, by comparing the clusters of p53 mutation and wild type, a model is obtained for genes regulated by p53. Thus, for the clustering analysis step, Mack does not require prior knowledge of any relationship of the genes tested from p53. On the contrary, one of the purposes for Mack is to determine the relationship of genes of 65,000 with p53.

As set forth in the previous Office action, while Mack reference does not explicitly teach or suggest use of SOM for the data analysis, it does motivate/suggest using alternative statistical methods (see columns 27-28). More importantly, the motivation to modify Mack comes from Mangiameli, who, after comparing SOM and seven clustering methods, concludes that SOM is superior to all others in determination of natural subgroups in a data set. Given the large number of genes used in Mack (65,000 for potential genes regulated by p53), one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated by Mangiameli to modify Mack by using SOM instead of cluster analysis.

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.136 (a). A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire three months from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within two months of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the three-month shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136 (a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than six months from the mailing date of this final action.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703)305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to:
Shubo "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 605-1158. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Patent Analyst Tina Plunkett whose telephone number is 703)-305-3524, or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

S. "Joe" Zhou, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner


MICHAEL P. WOODWARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600